

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 032649

R 141458Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8984

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

SECDEF

CNO

COMUSNAVSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3466

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SUBMARINES FROM CHILEAN NAVY

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 3053; (B) SANTIAGO 3155

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER (DATED 7 JUN 74) HAS BEEN RECEIVED
FROM THE CHILEAN NAVY (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):
FROM: SUBMARINE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL SECTION, USMILGP CHILE

1. WITH THE OBJECT OF FORMALIZING OUR CONVERSATION OF 31 MAY
1974, CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF TWO SUBMARINES SO AS TO
REPLACE SS'S "THOMPSON" AND "SIMPSON", I CAN SUPPLY THE
FOLLOWING DATA AS A BASIS TO THE MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE
MEETING:

A. SS "THOMPSON" HAS REACHED THE LIMIT OF HER USEFUL LIFE AS
A SUBMARINE UNIT, BEING AT PRESENT DISMISSED FROM ACTIVE
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SERVICE.

B. SS "SIMPSON" HAS A REMAINING LIFE OF 18 MONTHS, AT MOST, BEING SUBSEQUENTLY HELD ONLY AS TRAINING AID UNTIL FINAL DISMISSAL FROM ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE NAVY, EVENT WHICH TENTATIVELY WILL TAKE PLACE ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF 1976.

C. SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH INITIALLY RECEIVED FLEET TYPE SUBMARINES HAVE HAD THESE UNITS REPLACED BY OTHERS OF MORE ADVANCED TYPE AND EVEN IN GREATER NUMBER BY THE U.S.A.

D. THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED TWO OBERON TYPE SUBMARINES FROM GREAT BRITAIN, BEING AT PRESENT IN BUILDING STAGE, BUT THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY COULD WIND UP IN THE UNITS NOT BEING FINALLY DELIVERED TO OUR COUNTRY. IN THE EVENT NO SUCH INTERFERENCE OCCURS, THE ARRIVAL DATES IN CHILE OF SAID UNITS WOULD BE, RESPECTIVELY, END OF THE PRESENT YEAR AND SOME TIME IN MID-1975, AND EVEN SO OUR SUBMARINE STRENGTH WOULD BE SERIOUSLY UNBALANCED IN COMPARISON TO THAT OF THE OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS.

2. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE SITUATION, I REQUEST THAT YOU INQUIRE WITH YOUR NAVY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRANSFER ON LOAN OR OF A TURNOVER OF TWO SUBMARINES OF A MORE ADVANCED TYPE THAN THE ONES WE AT PRESENT POSSESS, SO AS TO MAINTAIN BALANCE IN THIS TYPE OF UNITS AND TO INSURE OUR CONTINUED TRAINING BOTH IN SUBMARINE AND IN ANTI-SUBMARINE OPERATIONS, AND THUS EFFECTIVELY COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL TREATIES CONCERNING SELF-DEFENSE OF THE AMERICAN COAST LINE.

THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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